

# ED ROE

## Supporter - Oval Racing - Inducted 2009



By Brian Pratt

Synonymous with Gordie Hemrich is mechanic Ed Roe. The two have known each other for over 60 years, having grown up a few houses apart. When it came time to race they both were in and have been together in the racing game for 40 plus years. The success Gordie Hemrich has had is in part a result of the hard work of Ed Roe.

A machinist by trade at Hastings Brass Ed Roe has helped build the motors and chassis over the years from back in the False Creek and Haney Speedway days through to Langley Speedway, and now at Agassiz Speedway with Gordie's son Dave.

One of their first race cars was a 1930 Plymouth roadster that ran as a "B" modified at Haney Speedway. Like others starting it was learn by trial and error and observation. When drivers and teams from the U.S. came up, like those of Ron Eaton and Hershel McGriff more information was gathered. Ed also read what he could get his hands on including the early Steve Smith chassis books.

It also didn't hurt that the early stock car rule books were short – one page in the beginning – so if something wasn't explicitly written down they'd try it.

But ultimately it was all down to hard work leading up to and at the track. Ed would go to wrecking yards for springs. With a spring checker he and the team, Gord, Ed, and maybe another, would cut and change springs, even at the track when they were fastest. All in the hopes of finding more speed.

The work and dedication paid off with championships for Gordie Hemrich and year end best mechanic awards for Ed Roe. They weren't "honorary" as modest Ed describes them, they were a reflection of his effort and ingenuity.

Ed Roe carried on as mechanic for Gordie when a NASCAR Northwest Tour ride was offered by Bruce Allan. That lasted for two and a half years. More recently Ed has been part of the Dave Hemrich Sportsman



Ed Roe right with Gordie Hemrich, Langley Speedway (Gordie Hemrich collection)

crew at Agassiz Speedway. The race car is similar to the "old school" cars so, while he doesn't do the travelling of past years, he can help at the home track and carry on a championship legacy began many decades ago.

Below: Hemrich Team, Roe centre (Gordie Hemrich collection)

